

REMARKS

A Declaration by the present inventor is submitted herewith.

The Examiner is requested to review and reconsider his citation of the prior art, particularly Hoffman (US 5,516,387), Balekjian (US 4,016,450) and Tanaka (US 5,759,671) in light of the comments by the present inventor relating thereto.

The claims have been amended, and significantly restricted in view of the prior art. It is respectfully submitted that combining Balekjian with Hoffman, even if it were possible, would not yield the same result as that provided by the present 'cut-out means responsive to ambient light', which serves to utilize ambient daylight whenever possible for illuminating the screen indicia contents, to thereby significantly extend the useful service life of the phosphorescent screen.

It appears that the Examiner's comment concerning Claim 4 and the recited voltage reduction technique (Page 4 third para of the Office Action) are not well taken by the inventor: the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his comment.

In regards to Tanaka, it appears from the inventor's comment at his Para 11 that the Examiner may have misconstrued the language and intent of Tanaka and his "retroreflective" sheeting. There does not appear to be any support for the Examiner's conclusion concerning Tanaka's sheeting limiting "the adverse effects of ultraviolet rays impinging on the screen", particularly as Tanaka specifically illuminates his screen with UV floodlights as high as 400 watts, "adjusted to radiate UV over the entire surface of the signboard".

The Harrold reference (US 3,188,761) is directed to a sign powered by household voltage (presumably 115 to 130 volts), wherein the associated constancy of output by the screen would totally negate the operation of Balekjian's photoelectric sensor and its role

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of "briefly energizing or flashing the light source whereby to effectively recharge the phosphor". The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103(a) in view of Harrold combined with Balekjian.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention constitutes a valuable and unanticipated advance over the prior art, thereby making available a new, useful and safety-promoting display.

Consideration of the amended claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Eggin.